

To: Assessment Directors, Curriculum Coordinators, Science Teachers

From: Linda Lacy, Science Consultant

Date: October 7, 2004

Subject: Science Grade-Level Expectations

Please make your science teaching staff aware of the latest draft version of the Science Grade Level Expectations. This document was reviewed September 15 by representatives from school districts across the state. At that time, we posted the science Grade-Level Expectations on the Curriculum Services page of the Department's Web site for public review and comment. You may access the document by visiting <http://www.dese.mo.gov/divimprove/curriculum/GLE%20Documents.html> . Please use the [feedback form](#) to send your comments and questions to Linda Lacy, science consultant, at Linda.Lacy@dese.mo.gov no later than October 15.

As you know, the No Child Left Behind Act requires states to assess science at grade spans, beginning in spring 2008. The State Board of Education has endorsed the recommendation to move the science tests to grades 5, 8, and 11. The latest draft of the science Grade-Level Expectations reflects these new grades for testing.

We are not certain whether we will have state funds to support science testing before 2008; however, if funding is available, we hope to offer the new science tests at these new grade levels as early as 2007. Nonetheless, we do not anticipate being able to finalize the testing schedule for science until the legislature acts on our budget requests for FY 2006 and, then again, for FY 2007.

Please share with your fellow teachers and administrators our recommendation that school districts postpone any changes in science curriculum articulation/alignment until the final copy of the science Grade-Level Expectations is approved. We anticipate that we will post this final version by mid December. We will then develop new tests, based on the new grade placements, and we will field test these instruments between 2005 and 2007.

If you have any questions regarding science curriculum and instruction, please do not hesitate to contact me.

cc: Wesley Bird
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